[Translation]

Use of Ayurvedic and Homoeopathic Medicines by Allopathic Doctors

18. SHRI RAMACHANDRA VEERAPPA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether allopathic doctors are using many famous ayurvedic and homoeopathic medicines for the treatment of the patient and even the doctors in Government hospitals are prescribing these medicines;

(b) whether the Government have imposed restriction on the use of allopathic medicines by the ayurvedic and homoeopathic doctors;

(c) if so, whether the Government are considering to allow the ayurvedic or homoeopathic doctors to use the allopathic medicines during an emergency; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) No such information is available.

(b) As per the Supreme Court of India judgement dated 10.5.96 in the case of Poonam Verma Vs. Ashiwn Patel and Ors. a person who is registered as a Homoeopathic practitioner can practice homoeopathy only. When the law under which a person was registered as medical prectitioner required him to practice Homoeopathy only, he was under a statutory duty not to enter the field of any others system of medicine without being qualified in that system.

(c) and (d) As per the provisions of section 15 of the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956, a person possessing a recognised medical qualification included in the Schedule to Indian Medical Council Act, 1956 and enrolled in a State Medical Register/Indian Medical Register is eligible to practice allopathy, i.e. modern scientific system of medicine in any State.

Renovation of Hospital Buildings

19. SHRI LALIT ORAON: Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of schemes lying pending with N.D.M.C./M.C.D. for the renovation of buildings of clinics/hospitals being run under Central Government Health Scheme; and

(b) the time by which these schemes are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU): (a) and (b) The office of the Director General (C.G.H.S.) has reported that the renovation of C.G.H.S. dispensaries etc. is neither done by NDMC nor by MCD. The question of any scheme being pending with these agencies, therefore, does not arise.

[English]

Sub-Standard Drugs

20. SHRI ANANT GUDHE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the spurt in the production and marketing of sub-standard/fake and spurious drugs in the country threatening public health system;

(b) if so, whether threat perception and magnitude of the problem has been assessed by the Expert Committee/Task Force recently;

(c) if so, the details of the threat perceptions evaluated by the experts;

(d) the details of the steps taken by the Government to tackle the menace of sub-standard drugs through strengthening and streamlining of States Food and Drug Administration; and

(e) the agenda of action plan for 1997-98 for effective implementation of Food and Drugs Adulteration Act?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) As reported by State drug licensing authorities during the period 1993-96, 10-12% samples of drugs tested were found to be sub-standard whereas 0.2% samples were found to be of spurious origin.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) and (e) The State Licensing Authorities have been advised, from time to time, to strengthen their enforcement staff and drugs testing facilities to crub the menace of manufacture and sale of sub-standards drugs. However, Under the Public Health Capacity Building project being negotiated with the World Bank, Govt. proposes to augment the drug testing facilities and drug inspectorate staff in the Centre and the States.

[Translation]

Melting of Snow at the South Pole

21. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VERMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the snow at the South Pole is melting into water as stated by the studies conducted by the Indian team in the Antarctica;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the water level in the ocean along the Indian coast has gone up causing danger to the coastal cities; and

(d) if so, the measures taken by the Government in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN): (a) No Sir. No such conclusive studies have been undertaken in the South Pole by Indian Antarctic team so far.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) According to the report of Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) 1995, the Global Mean Sea Level has risen 10 to 25 on over the last 100 years (1890-1990) at the rate of 1 to 2.5 mm per year. The observed trend for this period at Bombay is 0.9 mm per year. Preliminary studies conducted by the National Institute of Oceanography (NIO) Goa have indicated that the sea level rise is about 0.36 to 0.91 mm per year at different locations along the Indian coast with an average rise of 0.53 mm/year. Detailed studies have not been conducted so far to ascertain the impact on coastal cities due to inundation arising out of sea level rise.

(d) The Government has initiated a programme in 1990 titled 'Sea Level Monitoring and Modelling' under which 8 modern tide gauge stations at Porbunder, Marmagao, Kavaratti, Port Blair, Kochi, Chennai, Visakhapatnam and Paradip have been set up to monitor sea level changes. Detailed mapping of the coastal areas in 1:25,000 scale with 0.5 metre contour are also undertaken for the most vulnerable stretch from Nellore to Machilipatnam to facilitate impact assessment studies related to sea level rise.

Urban Employment Scheme

22. SHRI JAYSINH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the employment schemes implemented in the urban areas of Gujarat;

(b) the number of mandays created till June, 1997 in the urban areas of the State;

(c) the total funds provided by the Union Government for this purpose and utilised by the State Government so far;

(d) whether the World Bank has provided any assistance to the State Government for the purpose; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU): (a) This Ministry is implementing two Centrally sponsored urban employment schemes namely, Nehru Rojgar Yojana (NRY) and Prime Minister's Integrated Urban Poverty Eradication Programme (PMIUPEP) in the urban areas of Gujarat.

(b) NRY:-Till 30-6-97, 13.05 lakhs mandays of work were created under the scheme of Urban Wage Employment (SUWE) in Gujarat.

PMIUPEP:-There is no wage employment component under this programme.

(c) NRY:-The funds provided by the Union Government and utilised by the State Government under NRY till 30-6-97 were Rs. 3610.11 lakhs and Rs. 1684.10 lakhs respectively.

PMIUPEP:-The amount of Central share released under the programme to Government of Gujarat is as follows:-

Year	Amount (Rs. in lakhs)
1995-96	583.59
1996-97	315.54500

The State Government has utilised Rs. 2,59,51,492/- and Rs. 2,04,75,185/- for the years 1995-96 and 1996-97 respectively.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

[English]

Action Against Travel Agents

23. SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any action against the travel agents who have cheated the Indian labourers seeking jobs in foreign countries; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) and (b) Complaints regarding cheating and extortion substitution of contracts, down grading of skills, non-payment and delayed payment of wages, premature termination of contracts, unsatisfactory living and working conditions etc. are at times received from the workers. These are enquired into with the help of police authorities and the concerned missions abroad and appropriate action, including suspension and cancellation of the Registration Certificates, is taken according to the merits of each case. Public Hearings are also hold twice a week i.e. Tuesday and Friday from 11.30 A.M. to 12.30 P.M., In which both complainants and the Recruiting Agents are called and grivances settled in majority of the cases. During the last three years 1994, 1995 & 1996, 239 complaints were received against the Recruiting Agents and registration certificates of 26 Recruiting Agents were suspended and R.C. of one R.A. was cancelled.

Child Labour

24. SHRI N. DENNIS: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government provide any